

Message Text

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AMCONSUL THESSALINIKI

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, GR, US

SUBJECT: MORE CHARGES AGAINST FORMER AMBASSADOR TASCA

REF: THESSALINIKI 255 (NOTAL)

1. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, THE COUNCIL OF APPEALS COURT JUDGES HAS ORDERED AN INVESTIGATION BASED ON A SUIT AGAINST FORMER AMBASSADOR HENRY J. TASCA CHARGING HIM AND OTHERS IN CONNECTION WITH THEIR ALLEGED TIES TO THE 1967 COUP AND THE SUBSEQUENT JUNTA GOVERNMENT. THE SUIT, FILED BY A THESSALONIKI LAWYER, ANTONIOS MONSAY (REFTEL), ALSO REPORT-EDLY NAMES FORMER POLITICAL COUNSELOR DANIEL BREWSTER, GREEK-AMERICAN INDUSTRIALIST TOM PAPPAS AND THE COUP LEADERS AMONG THOSE AGAINST WHOM MONSAN SEEKS TO HAVE CRIMINAL CHARGES PREFERRED.

2. MONSAN'S SUIT, WHICH RECEIVED PROMINENT PLAY IN TWO NEWSPAPERS ON SEPTEMBER 3, TO VIMA AND TA NEA (BOTH LIBERAL, OPPOSITION), IS PRESENTLY IN THE HANDS OF AN INVESTIGATING JUDGE. ACCORDING TO THESE PRESS REPORTS, THE JUDGE WILL HEAR TESTIMONY, INTER ALIA, FROM CENTER UNION/ NEW FORCES LEADER GEORGE MAVROS, PASOK LEADER ANDREAS

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PAPANDREOU, FORMER PRIME MINISTER (1967) PANAYOTIS KANELLO-

POULOS AS WELL AS THE INDIVIDUALS WHO LED THE 1967 COUP. THE ATHENS PRESS REPORTS THAT GREEK JOURNALIST ELIAS DIMITRAKOPOULOS, WHO WILL BE AMONG THE WITNESSES, WILL MAKE A DEPOSITION BEFORE THE GREEK CONSUL IN WASHINGTON, WHERE DIMITRAKOPOULOS LIVES. TO VIMA NOTES THAT "OF COURSE" FORMER AMBASSADOR TASCA, PAPPAS AND OTHERS WILL BE CALLED TO TESTIFY IF THE INVESTIGATION REVEALS SUFFICIENT EVIDENCE.

3. ACCORDING TO THE PRESS, THE INITIAL INVESTIGATION OF THE SUIT WILL NOT BE COMPLETED UNTIL THE END OF THE MONTH. AT THAT TIME THE INVESTIGATING JUDGE WILL SUBMIT HIS FINDINGS TO THE COURT OF APPEALS, WHICH WILL THEN DECIDE WHETHER GROUNDS EXIST FOR PREFERING FORMAL CHARGES AGAINST THOSE NAMED IN THE SUIT.

4. COMMENT: EARLIER THIS YEAR, IN RESPONSE TO A PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION BY NEW DEMOCRACY DEPUTY SAVVOURAS (ATHENS 5006), THE FOREIGN MINISTRY AFFIRMED THAT MR TASCA WAS PROTECTED BY DIPLOMATIC IMMUNITY FOR HIS ACTIONS WHILE AMBASSADOR HERE. ONE TWIST IS THAT THIS SUIT REPORTEDLY COVERS AMBASSADOR TASCA'S ALLEGED ACTIONS BEFORE HE BECAME AMBASSADOR TO GREECE.

5. IF THE COURT SHOULD RULE THAT A TRIAL IS WARRANTED, THE SUBSEQUENT TRIAL WOULD MOST CERTAINLY TURN INTO A SOUNDING BOARD FOR ANTI-AMERICAN STATEMENTS AND PROPAGANDA. WHAT WOULD BE IN STORE IS INDICATED BY TA NEA'S LARGE HEADLINE OVER THE STORY ON THE SUIT: "PROSECUTION OF" LIKELY CIA AGENTS IN THE APRIL 21 COUP."
KUBISCH

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